

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 TRSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 102125Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 774

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7763

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PINT, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF EUGENIO VELASCO AND JAIME CASTILLO:

COMMENTS OF PIR LEADER LUIS BOSSAY, AND OF "WASHINGTON POST"

REF: SANTIAGO 7718

1. LUIS BOSSAY, HEAD OF THE PIR (RADICAL LEFTIST PARTY),
OF WHICH EUGENIO VELASCO WAS VICE PRESIDENT, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR
AUGUST 9 THAT VELASCO WANTED TO TEACH IN THE UNITED STATES.
THIS CONFIRMS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY VELASCO'S WIFE AND SON-IN-
LAW (REFTEL). THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM THAT SOMETHING

MIGHT BE WORKED OUT.

2. BOSSAY'S OTHER MAJOR POINT WAS THAT THE EXPULSION OF VELASCO
AND JAIME CASTILLO MARKED A NEW PHASE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S
REPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS. HE LABELLED THE EXPULSION AS BASICALLY
A REPRISAL FOR SIGNING THE LETTER TO OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS BUT
ADDED THAT VELASCO'S OUTSPOKEN SUPPORT FOR DETAINED HUMAN RIGHTS
LAWYER HERNAN MONTEALEGRE AND THE CASE HE WAS BUILDING TO PROVE
GOC COMPLICITY IN THE DEATH OF UN EMPLOYEE CARMELO SORIA, WERE
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS. UNDERSTANDABLY, BOSSAY PLAYED DOWN CONNECTING
THE EXPULSION TO PIR ATTEMPTS TO JOIN IN COMMON CAUSE WITH THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN ORDER TO LAUNCH A "DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE."

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3. COMMENT: BOSSAY AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (REFTEL) SHARE
A COMMON EVALUATION OF THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE EXPULSIONS.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED THE USIS WIRELESS FILE TEXT
OF A SHORT "WASHINGTON POST" AUGUST 9 REPORT ON THE VELASCO AND
CASTILLO EXPULSIONS. THE ARTICLE INCORRECTLY STATES THAT THE
EXPULSION "WAS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF GOVERNMENT BLOWS AGAINST
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PRISONER RELIEF AGENCY, THE VICARIATE
OF SOLIDARITY." IN FACT, THE EXPULSION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE
VICARIATE, SINCE THE LAWYERS HAD NOT WORKED WITH IT. THEY WERE
PROBABLY EXPELLED FOR THEIR PERSONAL AND PARTY ACTIVITIES.
THEIR EXPULSION IS NOT REGARDED IN CHILE AS AN ATTACK ON THE
VICARIATE OR THE CHURCH: THOUGH IT IS OF COURSE VIEWED BY CRITICS
AS AN ARBITRARY AND REPRESSIVE ACT.
POPPER

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